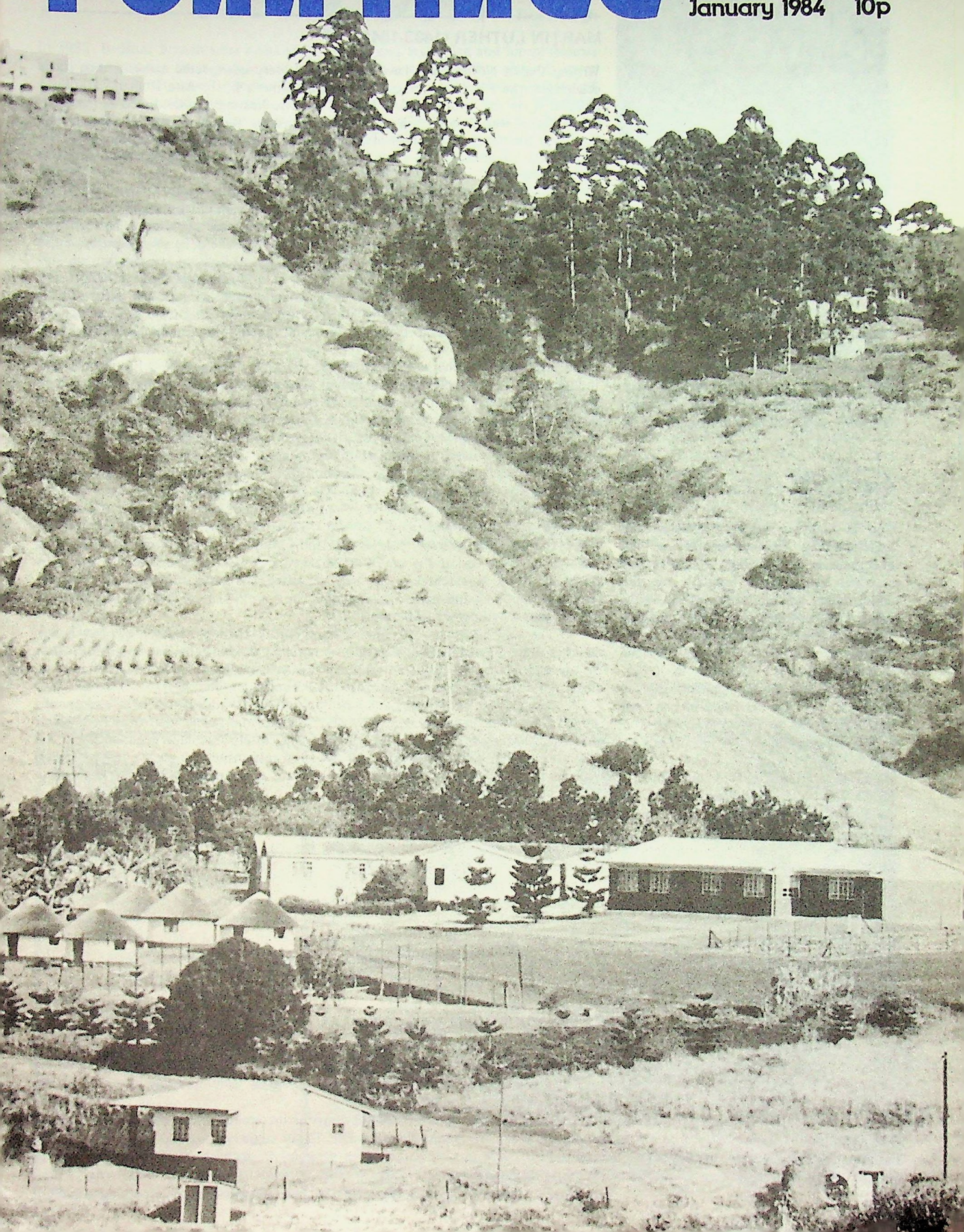


# Point Three



The Toc H magazine  
January 1984 10p





# Point Three

Editor: Frank Rice MA MA FBIM

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

# Personal View

## MARTIN LUTHER (1483-1546)

Writing this in November, I have noticed some very unexpected names among those celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth. As a Roman Catholic, I recall that, in my young days, I became used to hearing him described as the arch-heretic who was directly responsible for smashing the unity of the Church and indirectly for the fragmentation of Europe. Yet, in a couple of weeks from now, the Pope plans to celebrate the anniversary by preaching at an ecumenical service in a Lutheran church!

Martin Luther was a miner's son, ordained a Catholic priest at the age of 24 after some two years in an Augustinian monastery. A man of considerable theological insight, great physical energy and a popular, if coarse, sense of humour, he rose fast. Sent by his superiors to teach at the University of Wittenberg, he soon earned fame as a teacher and preacher. Like many thinking men, he had his doubts and worries and these were increasingly centred on the question of his own salvation. His introspection and his close reading of the works of St Augustine brought what he saw as the sudden revelation that man could be 'justified' by faith alone – that his own actions were irrelevant. This belief was to bring him into collision with the Church establishment – but not yet.

The crunch came in 1517 when the friar John Tetzel toured Europe offering 'indulgences' (ie the remission of temporal punishment for sins whose guilt had been forgiven) in return for contributions to St Peter's in Rome. Luther defiantly nailed to the church door a set of reasoned theses attacking the whole doctrine and practice. The Church's attempt to debate with him and then to discipline him both failed. Under state protection, he fled from his monastery. His clashes with the Church increased – partly because of his own violence of expression and behaviour, partly because of the rigidity and the harsh style of his opponents. In 1519, in a famous public debate, Luther denied the Pope's primacy, roundly declared that Christians did not need good works and openly invited the German princes to reform the Church.

So the gloves were off! After a period in hiding, Luther formally put aside his Augustinian habit and at the age of 42, married a 26 year old ex-Cistercian nun who shared his views. (Incidentally, this marriage, which started as a union of convenience, became a very long and happy partnership. The couple had six children of their own and adopted a number of orphans.)

The new ideas spread rapidly. Long before Luther's death, Germany had a national Church and Lutheran doctrines were taking hold in other European countries. By the end of the century, the majority of German Christians were Lutherans and most of the Scandinavian countries had official Lutheran Churches.

So, for 450 years Christianity in Europe and in the USA has been 'splintered', though that was certainly not Luther's original aim. Now that the theological differences that brought about the split are being closely studied in ecumenical circles, they are starting to look too small to have been responsible for such a mighty smash with all its unhappy consequences. Indeed, some are arguing that it need never have happened if only Luther had been less combative and his opponents had shown more imagination.

Yet I don't know. By the 16th century, abuses in the Church were so deep rooted and so widespread that something had to happen. There was no shortage of reformers but they were getting nowhere. When the Luther revolt came, it produced a fresh enthusiasm, and a new ministry dedicated to serving the people. And the Catholic Church was shocked into the great reforming Council of Trent and the whole Counter-Reformation with its strong and reformed papacy – and, of course, the great Jesuit order. So we might also argue that the revolt forced a re-birth that saved the Christian Church in Europe and helped the spread of vigorous Christianity in the North American world that was opening up: God works in mysterious ways.

And we are starting to come together again. For example, since Vatican II, the Catholic – Lutheran dialogue in the US has brought startling near agreement even in such difficult theological areas as the Mass and the Papacy. And these developments will be watched closely by ecumenists around the world. Many of the theological differences have shrunk and, in the main, we are left to find mutual understanding among the many differences of language and style coming from more than four centuries of apartheid.

I am an optimist and I see the impetus increasing almost daily. Please God we shall soon reach the point where, as *The Tablet* suggested recently, '... Christianity might once again appear as a force capable of drawing the human family into friendship and solidarity. That is what Christianity originally was, what Christ intended it to be, what it must again become'.

FGR

## Cover Picture

Etembeni in its valley setting. (See feature 'Don McKenzie Centre' in this issue.)



# BEDFORD'S DAY OUT

by Jane Rosbrough

In 1982, Bedford Branch were hosts at a lovely garden party for a coach load of elderly and handicapped people from Hackney. We followed this up in 1983 with a return trip to London on a memorable autumn Saturday – a day that has gone down in our Branch's history.

After gathering up our flock from various local clubs and residential homes, we blocked the pavement in Union Street. No, this was not yet another protest! We were awaiting our coach and four (well, two actually – the driver and his wife, our grateful thanks to them.) With everyone sitting comfortably we began.

We travelled to Kempston where we picked up another group of people again helping the more disabled to negotiate the wide steps with heaves and encouraging banter.

Then we were off. Within no time at all we had left the motorway and were passing through the bustle of London traffic. Our driver was a marvel as he swung the coach through narrow streets and past obstructions . . . until we reached our destination, Prideaux House, Hackney . . .

We unloaded the coach and guess where the rush was going? You've got it in one – the loo! Now feeling five pounds thinner, we climbed two flights of stairs (no mean feat for those with walking

frames and severe leg and hip problems) and were rewarded with a glass of sherry by Gualter de Mello, House Warden of Friends Anonymous Service, Prideaux House, London and his happy band of 'general dogsbodies'.

The room (once Tubby Clayton's study) had been carefully preserved together with the chapel which delighted us all bearing in mind that this house had once belonged to Toc H as a Mark. It had been sadly neglected by Toc H but here was Friends Anonymous working wonders with it. Despite problems with the new oven we sat at table and held hands and wished our neighbour peace. We then tucked into a delicious meal of soup and shepherd's pie, followed by fresh fruit salad, tea or coffee.

Now feeling ten pounds fatter we relaxed whilst we had a short talk on the work Friends Anonymous were doing in Hackney, helping the unemployed, the suicidal, the destitute and anyone who was in need of any sort of problem advice . . . We also had a description of Toc H work for those guests who did not know us.

For those who felt up to it there was a trip round Hackney taking in Victoria Park and the skyscrapers and concrete blocks masquerading as houses. After some more miraculous driving we visited a street market in Ridley Road . . . Chickens hung from stall poles, there



were vegetables of all varieties, clothes, fruit, fish and much more . . . Then it was back to Prideaux House to see a BBC film portraying some of the work of Friends Anonymous . . .

Our time at Prideaux House was drawing to a close and soon we were saying our farewells with handshakes, hugs and kisses all round.

Feeling a little sad that the day had gone all so quickly we piled back into the coach and set off for an informative trip around London . . . We took in the Monument at Pudding Lane where the Great Fire of London started, Tower Bridge, London Bridge, HMS Victory. The London Dungeons, The Tower of London and many more too numerous to mention.

Then we set off homeward. We all felt deeply touched by the day we had just experienced . . . Those of the elder guests just relaxed and fell asleep . . .

Didn't we have a lovely day the day we went to Hackney!

## Talbot House, Poperinge

### Accommodation Rates for 1984

1. Up to two nights, 350 Belgian francs per person per night
2. Three nights or more, 300 Belgian francs per person per night
3. Accommodation in the Garden House is available at 250 Belgian francs per person per night.

(The exchange rate at present is approximately 80 Belgian francs to the £.)



Remember Sheffield's Toc H Plus Bus? (See our June 1983 issue.) During one of its 1983 tours, it spent two days in Wimborne (Dorset) during which the 'Tiggers' Toc H Group hosted a playscheme. Here, Janet Hopkins, a local playgroup leader, reads to some of the children.

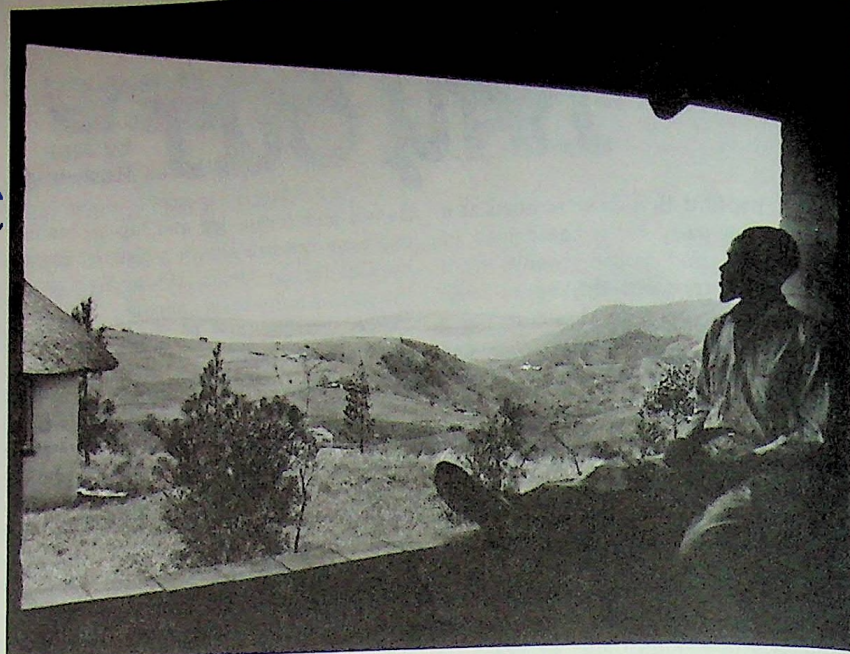
Photo: Western Gazette



# Don McKenzie Centre

(in association with  
Toc H Southern Africa)

by C L Fitzalan Howard



There is a winding tar road that leads down into a majestic Valley of a Thousand Hills in Natal and at the foot of the Kloof there is a plateau. Just where the road begins to straighten out and turns to dust stretching into a distant blue horizon, there stands a growing village which was founded in the last days of summer in 1950. The Black people, in their poetic language, call it 'Etembeni' which means 'A Place of Hope', for it was established and built to help in the fight against tuberculosis amongst the Black people. If one stands on a high hill and looks across the great valley, it is possible to see the pattern of this unique village with its neat white buildings reflecting the bright sunlight, with its winding roads which are tree lined and where children laugh and play and where men work. Where once was just grass covered veld, now stands Etembeni — a place of hope.

It was founded by Toc H... Perhaps the scheme was born in the minds of Toc H men during the War when men began to think. Toc H was mindful of the dire need of Black people in their unavailing fight against the ravages of the death rate in South Africa which reached such alarming proportions that in those days someone died from TB every 26 minutes and, in every 24 hours, 55 funerals had passed by. In the tragedy of our Country, this was due possibly to lack of knowledge of the true nature and character of the disease, to fear and superstition and to suspicion. A decision was reached to found a Settlement where, in conjunction with the medical authorities, it was hoped to join in combat against tuberculosis by housing those who, discharged from hospitals, entered the long period of convalescence. Careful nursing, good food, freedom from anxiety and planned rehabilitative

measures would help in the restoration of health. It was also planned to house those who, having the disease in a modified form, were waiting for admission to crowded hospitals. In addition thought was given to admission of children with TB in the lungs and in the bones and joints, the latter causing serious paralysis and, in certain instances, to house those who were chronically ill.

Here seemed some answer to the supplicating cry of an underprivileged people for help. Here was a job of work that could exercise the minds of all who were concerned with human beings as living people and not as tools in the background of life. Of such things are dreams made and to make this dream a reality required the decision of man to go out into the field of pioneer work and begin a work of which no one could foretell success or failure or indeed the measure of the co-operation which would be forthcoming from the people it hoped to serve. For one Toc H man, it was a question of weighing the comforts of security in a sound career and counting the 99 good reasons for hanging on and looking clearly at one mad reason for surrender to Him who cares for all. That surrender was made. And that all happened in the last days of summer in 1950. Armed with a simple faith that all would be well and with enthusiasm, and accompanied by his dog, Don McKenzie set out to the great Valley and established in the name of Toc H, the Settlement which was to grow in a few years to a place called Etembeni.

The first year was a struggle to survive. The days were busy yet often very lonely and the nights were dark. He experienced the hunger for companionship and the frustration of bitter defeat and when the temptation came to return to the city lights and the normal ways of life, the





'still small voices' bade him stay. People began to help: the plan began to take shape slowly yet steadily; buildings started to appear. Money was always desperately needed.

One year later, under primitive conditions, the first six patients were admitted. The hot sun beat upon the little Settlement, the rain pelted and the gales blew and still the House stood firm. Around the first buildings grew the village that today consists of wards housing 238 black Tuberculosis patients of whom over 90 are children and young men; staff cottages; a general medical ward of 20 beds; a community hall; dining hall and kitchens; a nurses' home; a school; workshops; laundry; a chapel; and all the ancillary buildings necessary for the administration of a TB Centre. Since the gates were opened, over 10,000 Black patients have passed through its portals, and of that number more than 75% have been discharged to their homes healed in body and in spirit.

In 1967 Don McKenzie retired from the Centre: he passed away in 1978. On 25 April 1981, in the presence of his widow, his many friends and sponsors, representatives of the local community and many official organisations, a beautiful gateway at the entrance to the Centre was opened and the name of the Centre changed in his honour to the Don McKenzie Centre.

Since 1950 a number of significant changes have taken place in both the approach to controlling TB in the community and the handling of patients in the Centre itself. Because tuberculosis is a disease directly linked to poor nutrition, overcrowded living conditions, poverty and ignorance it is necessary to

approach its cure as part of a way of life. Thus the whole operation and procedures of the Centre revolve around education.

A great deal of superstition and misconception surround tuberculosis — particularly amongst the rural peoples. In order to bridge the gap between tribal and westernised beliefs, the patient is taught the basic mechanics of his body with particular emphasis on the role of the lungs and stomach. The cause and symptoms of tuberculosis are explained to him at a very simple level. Using the Centre gardens the patient is taken through the basics of gardening and the role that a balanced diet plays in his cure. It was found that many adult patients were unable to read and write and (in conjunction with Operation Upgrade) literacy courses are run continually to assist them.

One of the major contributory factors in successful medicine is involving the patient in his cure. Part of this involvement is motivating the patient to stay as active as possible whilst in the Centre. Patients who wish to work are therefore given light work within the Centre for which they are paid. In addition to handicrafts such as sewing, knitting, leatherwork etc are offered and any goods made by the patient are sold on his behalf, the proceeds therefrom being held in safe keeping until he leaves. All patients are involved in education — even the small toddlers, who are told traditional stories with emphasis on personal hygiene, food etc.

The Centre has always had a deep commitment to the people of the Valley of 1,000 Hills and in conjunction with its neighbour — The Valley Trust — has embarked on an experimental project



involving groups of local women situated at various points within the valley. The volunteer women have formed themselves into care groups and after training at the Centre are allowed to wear a green beret and a distinctive badge identifying them as 'Unompilo' or Community Health Workers. Using their training, these Workers teach their communities basic facts about disease, water conservation and sanitation. As the project matures, more and more people are becoming involved and learning to help themselves.

Today, 30 years after its humble beginnings, the Don McKenzie Centre stands, not only as a tribute to the vision of one man, but is a living proof of man's commitment to his fellow man. The principles of the Centre continue to be that of SANTA and the Toc H Movement. The Management and staff of the Centre are firmly committed to think fairly, to build bravely, to love widely and to witness humbly.

#### **'Entembeni — truly a place of hope'**

*One of the greatest thrills of my recent tour of Southern Africa was the visit to this Centre. The 1965 Toc H Jubilee Project was to provide funds to enable preventative work connected with health and nutrition, and so reduce the incidence of tuberculosis in the area.*

*This article by the Centre's Administrator — and another to follow by Doctor Friedman — shows what tremendous progress has been made by the recruitment of a large voluntary force of health workers. It must be mentioned that further funds will be needed from 1985 onwards in order that the work can continue.*

**Keith Rea — International Secretary**





# Round and about

## They've caught on at last!

In a recent pamphlet for volunteers entitled 'The Trick of Being Ordinary' David Brandon comments: '... The foundation of genuine helping lies in being ordinary. We can only offer ourselves, neither more nor less, to others. We have, in fact, nothing more to give ... To be committed to change within yourself is the single most important factor in helping others'.

## Congratulations ...

To two Toc H members winning prizes in the 1983 Legal and General Golden Years Award, a competition designed to encourage people to lead an active life after retirement.

Tommy Asquith (NE Regional Chairman) won the NE heat (see December issue p3) and was runner-up in the national finals. Ron Tyler (South Devon District) was runner-up in the South Western Counties Final.

## Bored with dressmaking?

If so, Bournemouth and Christchurch Branch and Paignton Branch will happily relieve you of your dressmaking or other large scissors.

Both Branches are helping to collect scissors so that they can be cleaned, sharpened, and sent to Mozambique, where women have formed craft co-operatives so that they can work together to produce clothes and other goods.

They are also looking for tape measures, zips, buttons, needles and 'sew' on ...!

## Troubles never come singly ...

Recently, Leigh's TAG Group decided to help the Gloucester Projects Group with their lake clearing. It took a lot of determination just to get there!

Mark Prescott writes: 'After about an hour and a half travelling, we waited an hour and a half for someone to come and repair our shattered windscreen. ... We waited half an hour while I changed a flat tyre and mended an oil leak ... We waited two hours for the RAC breakdown truck, because the cylinder head gasket had blown'. They eventually arrived at their destination by 4 am (yawn!) and Mark continues: 'After an eight hour journey we thoroughly enjoyed rolling around in the mud, and

*the smoky tea! I myself have learned a great deal in those two days, in contact with other Toc H members, and I hope that the inspiration I received there, will, in time, spread through Leigh and outwards'.*

If this is an example of his determination, I'm quite sure that it will!

## Technology in Stourbridge

Stourbridge Branch recently raised money to pay for 'See-Speech' equipment to help a deaf pupil at a local school overcome his hearing handicap.

The equipment is the most up to date method of teaching the deaf to pronounce words properly, and allows a teacher to say a particular word into the machine and a computerised voice pattern appears on the TV screen. The user then tries the word until it matches his own voice pattern and he then knows he is saying the word properly. The Branch raised the money by a flag day amongst other fund raising activities.

## On a happy note ...

Griffithstown Branch invited the Cwmbran Mellotones Male Voice Choir to give a concert in the Congregational Church, in order to publicise the work of Toc H in the area. A full house thoroughly enjoyed the evening ... and learned something of Toc H!

## Anstey at it again!

We have written before about Leicester's Anstey Branches and their exhausting 'activities weeks'. They had another hectic and successful go last October and raised £380. £190 went to a local hospital minibus appeal and the balance was divided between the Friends of Alison House and the Talbot House (Poperinge) Appeal Fund.

## Nelson's Column!

One of the best known Toc H couples celebrated their silver wedding this summer and it led into three days of Toc H fellowship with lots of non-Toc H friends joining in. Freda and Nelson Parker of Rushden, Northants celebrated their anniversary on 5 July. On the following Saturday a giant party was held at Rushden Hall for their relatives and friends. Freda and Nelson insisted on 'no presents' but those attending raised £200

for the Arthritic Research Council. On Sunday, 50 people attended a District Communion Breakfast and on Monday Branch members organised a car rally for some 50 people ending with a country pub meal.

We join the local membership in offering our thanks to Freda and Nelson for all they have done for Toc H in their quarter century together.

*Footnote:* At a recent meeting of members of all five Rushden Branches, a poll was taken to discover how each member had first met Toc H. The poll revealed that 95% of those present had been introduced to the Movement by Freda!

## They don't hang about!

Tenbury Wells Joint Group was registered only in the spring of this year, but already they have hit the press. Their local newspaper pictures Chairman David Marsom and Pilot Mary Davies handing over a toy and games trolley to the Matron of their local hospital. The Group is now planning to provide the town with a public seat.

## Helpful coppers!

Cromer Branch have just completed a second successful year collecting coppers to raise extra cash for the three annual Norfolk camps. They collected £50 last year, and they are eagerly awaiting the latest count. The prospects look good. Jack Twiss tells us 'in 1982 we could just about lift this six pint capacity bullseye jar; this time even Geoff Capes might find it a challenge'.

Each member adds to the jar, but it is a disabled OAP non-member who has contributed the most!

## And finally ...

The first 'Glenrothes Person of the Year' award has been made to an unemployed 22 year old, Andrew Hutchinson, who was presented with a watch for his efforts in helping local community groups.

The award is only made to a person whom the local Branch feel has contributed something really worthwhile to the local community in the spirit of Toc H.

The money comes from the interest gained on the Lilian Ayres Memorial Fund which was set up after her death last year. This is a very positive way of remembering Lilian, for her tremendous personality and the work that she did in Glenrothes whilst on the Toc H staff.



# CENTRAL COUNCIL 1983

As usual, much of Council's real business was carried out through shifting conversational groups outside the main business sessions. (See also p10).





# Report of the Central Executive Committee 1982 - 1983

to Central Council

1. In speaking to last year's Council on behalf of the Executive the Director suggested a four point agenda for the coming year:

a. Trying to ensure that our structures are sufficiently flexible and that people are really free to take local initiatives that will extend the Movement.

b. Giving more detailed thought to the implications of our understanding of the role of staff.

c. Considering whether there are particular concerns to which we should, as a Movement, and as a matter of policy, seek to give a higher priority.

d. And, most importantly and most personally, thinking seriously about what our commitment to this Movement really means and how that ought to be expressed in financial terms.

2. The most significant initiative taken by the Executive in its attempt to work through this agenda has been the proposal for a series of Day Conferences at venues throughout the country. This programme is very much a team effort and the Executive has been encouraged by the willingness shown by the large number of people who have been asked to take part in one way or another. The aim of the programme is to invite all those who feel themselves in any way part of the Toc H family to consider what new local activities they can develop, how they can more effectively transmit their experience of Toc H to others and what specific commitment they can undertake in the coming months. Of course, a major initiative of this kind costs money but if, as we believe, it helps to rebuild our confidence and deepen our commitment it will be money well spent.

3. In line with our agenda for the year our Personnel sub-committee has given much thought to ways of giving our staff greater support and of helping them to increase their effectiveness. As a result it has drawn up new guidelines for the annual interviews which now take place with all staff.

4. The Executive has continued to consider ways of making our committee structure, at all levels, simpler, less time consuming and more effective. As part of this it has appointed new policy making

teams for our national Centres. It has also started to give some thought to devising proposals for a more effective format for Central Council itself.

5. As reported at last year's Council the previous Executive took the view that the appointment of a full time Chaplain to the Movement was essential but that no appointment should be made until we were as sure as was humanly possible that we had found the right person. Your Executive this year endorsed that policy. Despite all efforts to make our need known we regret that we are not yet able to submit a name to you for your confirmation. We continue to believe that this is an essential appointment and trust that the new Executive will continue to make every effort to find the right person.

6. The defeat of the Resolutions put to last year's Council left the Executive with a number of urgent financial decisions to take. A meeting of Regional Treasurers was held to discuss these and as a result of a day of positive and constructive discussion a number of new arrangements were agreed for implementation at the start of the present financial year:

a. All field staff costs, including expenses, are borne centrally.

b. All costs (including salaries) of Regional Offices, where these exist, are borne by the Region.

c. The Finance Committee agrees with each Region annually a target figure for the Regional contribution to central funds.

d. The Region adds an amount to cover its own needs before working out targets for each Branch.

e. Branch contributions are sent to the Regional Treasurer (either direct or through the traditional channels) and the Regional Treasurer forwards the appropriate proportion to Headquarters.

7. While challenging the membership to develop a new realism about the Movement's need for finance the Executive has accepted that it equally has an obligation to try and develop more effective fund raising on a national basis. We recognise that this will be difficult. It is easier to raise money for specific local

activities than for the Movement generally, especially when central expenditure has to be largely for salaries and administration. Preparing a suitable case to put to Trusts and large firms will therefore take time but we are determined to play our part, in partnership with Branches and Districts, in meeting the challenge of our financial position.

8. We were sad to receive Angus Ogilvy's resignation as our Vice-Patron but we naturally respect his decision. We believe that a new Vice-Patron will have an important part to play in our national and fund raising campaign and therefore feel we should develop our ideas for this in more detail before making any approaches to fill the position.

9. Our policy of encouraging the formation of small community houses bore its first fruit with the opening of the new house in Putney. We have also entered into the lease of a property in Whitechapel and this new community house will take on the work in the East End of London done for so many years by Talbot House on Tower Hill. We are grateful to the Wakefield Trust for undertaking to meet the costs of repairs and alterations to this building which will, we are convinced, become a valuable centre for Toc H work in the area.

10. We were sad to have to reach the conclusion that Toc H should no longer give financial support to the Winant and Clayton Volunteers but we are delighted that All Hallows Church has decided to take responsibility for this scheme. We are continuing to explore possibilities for direct exchanges between Toc H UK and Toc H overseas.

11. Agreement was reached for the sale of 24 Pembroke Gardens to the Bangladeshi community for continued use as a social, cultural and educational centre.

12. The number one priority for all of us in 1984 will, of course, be the programme of Day Conferences. We pray that this will indeed prove a launch pad for the future growth of our Movement.



# Central Executive Committee November 1983 - November 1984



Christine Bostock (Kent)



Harry Brier (Yorks)



Alan Brooke (Norfolk)



Cyril Cattell (Cambs)



Arthur Frymann (Notts)



Janet Rauch (Essex)



Peter Smith (Somerset)



John Stevens (Dorset)



Connie Tate (Shropshire)



Olive Tennant (Norfolk)



Chairman

Jim Lewis (Scotland)



Vice-Chairman

Wyn Roberts (Clwyd)

The new CEC made a conscious decision to use their power of co-option to bring on to this year's Executive two more of our younger members - Maggie Kay (North Humberside) and Peter Ranken (Rugby); both have accepted.

Photos: Bob Broeder, John Dickson and Scott Shaw

## What happened at Council

In a number of ways, this was an unusual Council. I can see no better way of reporting its main thrust than by printing here the major part of the Director's notes, sent to all Central Councillors after the meeting.

— Editor

... On this occasion the task of reporting Council seems to me an impossible one. Our weekend together was a very special experience and we can only try to share that experience as each of us, individually, felt it. The details of our discussion are comparatively unimportant. What is important is that each of us had in our own particular way what can only be called an experience of the presence of God. I cannot therefore in these notes make any pretence of objective impartiality. I cannot confine myself to surface facts. I can only try to share something of my own feelings, which will inevitably be different in some

ways from those of each of you about the weekend we were privileged to share together.

'The experience began with pain. Frank Rogerson shared with us, and made us feel, his pain and bitterness and that of many others over what they saw as arrogant and high handed actions by the Central Executive. For a time there was a possibility that we would be drawn into a damaging confrontation, that the pain would be deepened by hurtful words on both sides. But gradually a different mood took shape. On the one hand a recognition of the hurt that had been caused and an expression of penitence; on the other a recognition that such mistakes as had been made had not been the result of arrogance or malice but had come through human failing and human impatience. On the one hand a recognition of the need for better

communication and full consultation; on the other a recognition of the need for a national body to take national decisions and to offer leadership. Feelings of hurt leading to the desire to cause pain, gave way to a search for mutual forgiveness, reconciliation and healing. For the record the resolution was lost but in a deeper and truer sense it was not rejected. Through pain had come growth.

'In the afternoon we received messages of hope from the team who were brave enough to share something of themselves and their particular Toc H experience.

'John Stevens spoke about the deliberate decision of the Southern Region to concentrate on passing on Toc H to a younger generation. He told us how the older membership had proved to themselves that young people want what Toc H had to offer and how, in the



# How the Votes went

The one Resolution before Council came from the N Wales and NW Region and was proposed by Frank Rogerson (Conwy - Clwyd) and seconded by Emyr Jones (Gwynedd). It reads as follows:

*'That this Council resolves that before the Central Executive Committee take final irrevocable action on any function in which a Region may have an involvement, particularly regarding property, Centres, financial resources and Staffing, the Regional Executive Committee shall be consulted and given the opportunity to submit their observations.'*

The motion was heavily defeated, attracting only nine votes. But there were special reasons for this as the Director explains in his report on p9.

## The Accounts

Extracts from the Accounts were printed in our September issue. Full copies of the audited Accounts, including accounting policies and other notes, are available to all Members on demand.

In presenting the Accounts to Central Council, the Hon Treasurer added an explanation to cover queries that had been raised with him. He pointed out that in the Accounts, investments and properties are shown at cost. If we were to take the current value of our properties and the market value of our investments - both at 31 October - our net asset value would appear as £4.8 million.

process, they have renewed their own vision.

'Ann Crouch spoke from the heart about her experience of friendship and love in the Friendship Circles in Cleveland and we responded by giving her, through our applause, a metaphorical cuddle.

'Nigel Pratt told the humorous tale of his dream of a double decker bus and of how the membership in South Yorkshire had helped him to make that dream take solid, black and orange shape - all too solid felt those of us who tried, somewhat ludicrously, to push start it on Sunday afternoon...

'Keith Rea told us a little of some of the ambitious projects being tackled in South Africa and of the sense of unity and purpose he had sensed in Toc H there. And he told us of the invitation to a group of Toc H volunteers from this country to work on a Toc H project near Cape Town in the summer of 1985.

'Don Cullen spoke about our leadership role. We are not called to judge and to condemn those who may seem sunk in apathy but, through encouragement and example, to try to breathe into them new life and new vision.

'And Rose Radford orchestrated the session with her usual calm control and added glimpses of her own characteristic vision.

'After tea we had ample time... to talk with those who had spoken to us, to visit the bus and the several excellent exhibitions which had been arranged, and to reflect on all we had seen and heard.

'In the evening the emotional temperature was turned right down as we grappled with all the complex details included in the planning of our Day Conferences. I am grateful for the willing seriousness with which small groups discussed the planning of their own particular Conference until long after the bar was closed. Just for the record let me repeat that we are asking Councillors:

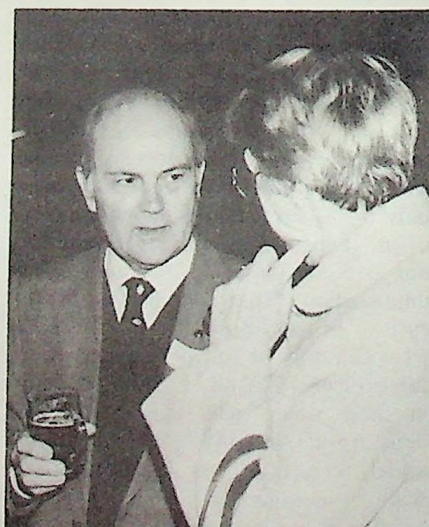
(a) To draw up an invitation list, including all Members and Builders, together with all those young and not so young, who have been active helpers of the Movement and feel themselves in some way to be part of the Family; and to let Frank Rice know how many invitation cards you will need.

(b) To appoint one person to receive the replies for your conference and to let us know, so that we can print that name and address on the reply cards and can put him or her in touch with the 'local contact person' who has accepted responsibility for overseeing all the practical arrangements.

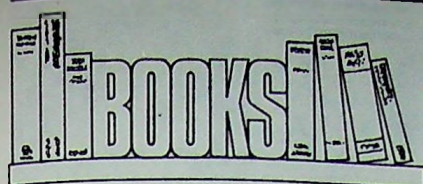
c) To let me have in due course claims for reimbursement of any expenses you incur for postage or whatever in connection with the Day Conferences...

'And so to Sunday morning. Edgar Wallace was the mouthpiece for the Good News of God's forgiving and reconciling power, a power which can change twisted and rusty nails into a new creation. He reminded us of *The Way Forward* and its statements about the mission of our Movement and our ministry within it... And then in the quiet of our Act of Worship we committed ourselves, privately and personally, to the individual ministry to which each of us has been called. We had been taken to the mountain top and we felt powerfully compelled to make a physical response. Since we were not quite sure what tabernacles were, we built a circle - a perhaps unconscious reminder of Polly's words at the Communion Service which began the day: God is a Circle whose centre is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.

'But, like the first Disciples, we are not allowed to remain on the mountain top. We have to take what we have experienced back to our Branches and our Districts. We have to try and share that experience with others, some of whom will be cynical or apathetic and will try to make us doubt its reality. And even to the most sympathetic, we shall, of course, be unable to find words to convey the full wonder of what we saw. Words like sin and forgiveness, love and reconciliation, which too often remain abstractions, came alive for us. We cannot, I suspect, hope to convey that through our speech. If we are to convey what we have learned it can only be through the way in which we now try to live it out. Our report back on this occasion will need to be, not words, but actions, so that the great abstractions may become vivid realities also in the experience of others...







## The Quiet Heart (prayers and meditations for each day of the year)

by George Appleton

If you are looking for a book on which to spend a Christmas voucher, here is one I would recommend: it will last the year through, properly used.

If you are conscious that I have revised only the last section of 'Yours is the Glory' in 'Joyful Journey' and you are looking for a treasury which will replace the other sections, here it is.

George Appleton has been and is a wise and good friend of Toc H. His theological insights are as close as we are likely to find to the Four Points. Take this, as an example (Day 153 'Continuing Experience' where he quotes from the Cambridge teacher Geoffrey Lampe): 'The real Christ is not a revived corpse. He lives in the fullness of God's life. He is the way, the truth, the way for us. He lives for us and in us...'

'Shortly before his death, he preached on the theme of preparing for death, in which he showed how he

himself was preparing. It seems, then, that to prepare against the fear of death we need to make the most of life; to enjoy life ourselves and to be thankful for it; to do our best to make it possible for other people to enjoy it more; to move through the enjoyment of life into enjoyment of God, the source and giver of life, and to begin to experience that renewal of ourselves through his love which gives us the promise of fuller life to come.'

In this anthology, though, you will find that the compiler has not limited himself to Christian sources, let alone Anglican. He acknowledged his debt to the Buddha, while admitting elsewhere that St John's gospel is the inspiration and mainstay of his spiritual life. His own prayer for Day 363 is:

*'Dear God, You burst our narrow bonds. We cannot confine You, monopolise You, control You. Out beyond Israel, beyond Christianity, beyond the religions, to the ends of the world, to the end of time, embracing every creature, O God, my God, God of all.'*

On Day 28 you will find a quotation from John Edward Southall, a lifelong Quaker who died in 1928, describing his experience of silence as the vital element in his approach to religion and life. In his Introduction he emphasises the importance of not just reading them through, a task which would not take longer than four or five

minutes at a leisurely pace. The intention of this compiler is that his own meditations will lead those who read them into their own meditation and communion with God, by whatever name they call him, and by whatever route they have arrived at their present point of faith and dedication. In other words, as we have understood, in meeting members of Toc H in different generations, He will meet each of us where we are, not where someone else thinks we ought to be in order to qualify for membership or Branch status.

If you have dipped into earlier books of prayers from this Archbishop, who was acceptable in Jerusalem, and still is, to Christians, Muslims and Jews and even those primarily concerned with politics rather than spiritual questions, 'The Quiet Heart' will probably last as his longest and ultimate contribution to those who want to learn how to pray, and how to pray more honestly and effectively. His meditation on Day 183 must be one of the fruits of his experience as Archbishop of Jerusalem and an explanation for his continued revisiting the city. For the younger generation who may only know about 'thinking things over' and are not sure whether this is prayer or not, 'The Quiet Heart' has plenty of material on one day or another, to start you off on a sound track. And who knows where it will lead, and whom you may meet, sensing some Presence you had thought was pure illusion, but after all, turns out to be nearer to reality than anything tangible and not immaterial? Essential if the various experiences we share are to make sense, and give new clues to the meaning of life, that you are trying to uncover. These meditations will also help you find your way about in the Bible, and that's no small thing to do for this price.

Bob Knight

'The Quiet Heart' is a Fount Original, price £2.95.

'Mind how you go!'

by John Darlington

This well produced, profusely illustrated booklet aims at providing a brief guide for the family on some of the main features of the road accident scene. Designed to accompany a BBC programme series, it includes safety advice and information for all ages, practical advice to parents and an ingenious collection of games and quizzes.

BBC Publications, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AA (Price £2.50)

## The Friends of Alison House

Statement of Account year ending 30 September 1983

Income		Expenditure	
	£ p		£ p
Balance at 1 October 1982	785.53	Divans and Carpets in Cottage	440.00
Donations, Efforts, and		Gift to Mrs Lawrence	50.00
Profits from Sales	754.65	Christmas Gifts to Staff	22.00
Interest	26.49	Acer Tree in Memory of	
		Elsie Potter	9.00
		Postage and Printing	5.50
		Total Expenditure	526.50
		*Balance	1,040.17
	£1,566.67		£1,566.67

\* Balance held as follows:

Midland Bank Deposit A/C	£ 532.58
Giro Bank Deposit A/C	£ 406.54
Giro Bank Current A/C	£ 101.00
Cash in Hand	.05
	£1,040.17

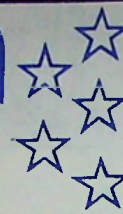
Treasurer: Faith Hewitt

Audited C M Jevons  
Mary Birnie





# 'LETTER FROM AMERICA' - 2



by Margaret McGettrick

Hello, again!

Having a baby is much the same process wherever you are in the world. Is there a difference having a baby under a private health care system? At a time of increasing interest in private medicine in England it was interesting to experience the alternative to the NHS.

The first big difference is that you choose your own 'gynae' and you are free to change him if you're not satisfied with his service. He becomes your friend and confidante. He looks after your ante and post natal care and delivers your baby. This continuity is marvellous — what bliss to see the same person each visit.

His offices are cosy and comfortable. He will accommodate you with an evening appointment — a godsend to me with two tiny children at home. Greatest joy of all — there were no endless queues. I did not feel part of a 'sausage machine' to be talked at and kept waiting, but a mature adult to be spoken to.

What a surprise to find that my doctor actually spoke to me, was pleased when I asked questions and didn't make me feel a bad patient for doing so. He was willing to talk 'man to man' and explained what was going on when progress was not straightforward.

Well, that's all on the positive side. Hospitalisation was similar to an English experience in most respects. Interesting, though, that the medical insurance companies pay only for three nights in hospital. This hardly seemed long enough

to recover. I suspect that because of the short length of stay, very little educative child care was given. Women were not routinely shown how to care for their babies, how to change a nappy, give a bath, breast feed etc, although the help was willingly given if requested.

It seems in this country that doctors and hospitals can be and are sued regularly. This has led to an over-emphasis on cleanliness and to rather unnecessary restrictions during hospitalisation. Visitors may view the newborn where he is placed and labelled ready for visiting. Husbands have to wear white gowns when holding their offspring. As a special privilege 'sibling' visitation is allowed if it is booked in advance, at certain times in the day only and then on a rota basis with other siblings. Thus, theoretically, one's children might not be allowed to visit at all if there is a long waiting list. This distressed me greatly. Still, my two thought it was fun climbing up the little step ladder and peering through the glass at their new brother. I thought it most impersonal but they didn't seem to mind.

They are very keen on 'bonding' here and if you opt for the 'bonding programme' you are wheeled with your husband and newborn baby into a special room after the birth for an hour's 'bonding' when you are left as undisturbed as possible. With divorce rates so high and broken families so numerous, it seems like a constructive 'grass roots' attempt at creating family unity.

And so to home . . . There are no friendly

midwives and health visitors waiting to greet you and assist you with the benefits of their infinite knowledge. You're left to get on with it all on your own! If you have a problem you call your 'gynae' or the paediatrician as appropriate. Then the unexpected happens just when you think you've got everything under control. Doctors here don't do home visits. You visit the surgery or go to the emergency room (ie casualty) at your nearest hospital. Unfortunately, problems often arise during the evening. The insurance companies won't pay up for hospital care unless it's a life threatening situation or your doctor has authorised it. When confronted with such a situation we confidently called our doctor only to be met, first with an answerphone and then by an answering service which was unable to locate our paediatrician for over an hour, leaving us to decide whether we had a 'life threatening' situation or not. Speaking of money and payments, our Medical Aid Scheme covered the majority of our costs. My husband has a colleague with a mentally retarded child. It seems that no insurance company will cover such a case. He explained what a strain it was financially having to meet all his son's medical expenses himself with no hope of relief.

All in all I can't honestly say that one system is better than the other. It's a pity we can't combine the two and have the best of both worlds isn't it?

*Yours ever  
Margaret*

Photo: Herald-Express Torquay



In June last, members of Paignton Men's Branch attended a reception at The South Devon Technical College, when a cheque for £532 was presented to the Branch for their local use. This was part of the proceeds collected by the students during their 1983 'Rag Week'.



Wimborne (Dorset) Branch present a second cheque for £250 to the Victoria Hospital for their amenities fund. Toc H Trustee Nora Bloxham tells us that Wimborne gave her the use of their Branch room to launch the Cruse group which has just celebrated its first birthday with 37 members.

Photo: Western Gazette





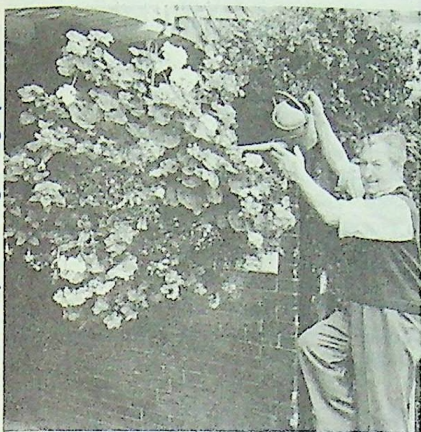
Toc H Service to the fore at Berlin's 1983 Military Tattoo.

# Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during October/November.

- 3 — Bridlington (J), Whitstable (W)
- 2 — Cleveland District Branch  
Ouse and Hull District
- 1 — Eyemouth (J), Graeme (M)  
Loughton (W), Middlesbrough (M)  
North Bucks with Oxford District  
North East Norfolk District  
St Thomas (Exeter) (J),  
Saltford (J), Thurrock (J)  
West Worthing (W)

A warm welcome to 20 new members



Despite the hot, dry summer, Louth's annual flower show was of a high standard. The picture shows G Holden, winner of the private house hanging basket competition, watering his prize-winning exhibit.



What a load of rubbish! Toc H offered to clean up an old Lowestoft railway cutting. They were disappointed at finding only 12 volunteers to help, but they collected 50 sacks of rubbish and filled a large skip with household discards and scrap metal.



Hilda Davies — Thurrock Toc H coach secretary — attracted some 50 people to a bazaar in the garden of her home. The £219 raised will help their fund for outings for the handicapped.



Each year, SE Kent members run a holiday camp for deprived and handicapped children. This year, 14 of them from all over the country had the time of their young lives — each with a volunteer to care just for him.



# BE STILL then....

Should you require Bible Reading Fellowship Notes and find difficulty in obtaining them at your local church, we can send them from here for £2 per annum. The Publications Department at Wendover now has copies of 'Joyful Journey' — the replacement volume for 'Yours is the Glory', which is out of print. The price is £1 (+50p p & p). The Chaplain will send you the complete list of daily intercessions on request.

## BORDON LETTER

by Agnes M Cook

### God's Plan and Challenge

Looking back over the many years, I have been aware of a life planned out for me — something that has taken a long time to realise. As a child and teenager, I was quite inarticulate and lacked confidence in my own ability. This I now feel was partly due to my family upbringing. My parents were devoted to us but strict. Father could not accept that a discussion was not an argument and we were not allowed to 'argue'. We were not encouraged to read books because he did not do so — his Daily Telegraph and gardening books were sufficient. My Mother had been an uncertificated teacher, but a very good one, and encouraged my brother, sister and myself as far as she could with our school work. On Sundays we were at Church four times a day once we were confirmed; we were in choir and Sunday School. This caused my first great difficulty when I was introduced to Toc H in 1927. One job I undertook on a Sunday once in six weeks was to take a blind person to her own Church for the Morning Service. This meant missing being in the choir in my own Church and coming home late to lunch — which was unforgivable!

However, The Toc H League of Women Helpers was a challenge to me and widened my outlook in life generally. I was very naive and ignorant concerning the lives of others, especially girls of my own age. This was brought home to me when Toc H challenged me to help in the local Girls' Shelter in Southend some evenings each week after travelling down from the City. Unmarried mothers, mentally retarded and problem girls in the Shelter caused me great anxiety and I felt I could not cope. In spite of this, four years later and with this experience, a further challenge came when it was suggested to me that I should give up my job at Hudson's Bay Company in the City and take my training at the Anglican Training House to undertake rescue and

preventative work for the Church. This caused my parents real anxiety — no-one on either side of the family had done such a thing and *'I did not know what I was undertaking'*. I realise now that it was God's guidance that made me go ahead with this plan and my parents, though very unhappy, agreed and promised to support me.

During the training, my courage failed me several times, as I was hopeless at examinations when at school: today, we call it nervous tension! However, I achieved the necessary qualifications and was licensed by the Bishop of Southwark to work in his Diocese. Later I went to Carlisle — another challenge — to undertake mother and baby shelter work. I was there five years as resident Matron. This was a concentrated and heavy responsibility, as I dealt with the outdoor work over the County of Cumberland, as well as being a part time probation officer at the Carlisle Court.

Toc H helped me a lot in both London and Carlisle and I have happy memories of the friendships made, especially with 'Peth' while in Cumberland and ever since.

From those days, in the different spheres of work, and later in marriage, I have gradually realised that there was a guiding hand behind me and supporting me. To be inarticulate in prayer and in showing my deep feelings are still part of my make-up although, as I grow older, I feel I have been able to express myself more fully. I remain very self conscious in speaking about personal matters — a good bit of Father in me still!

God's plan for me throughout the many years, together with the deep convictions of Toc H principles, have given me a very full life. His help when in great sorrow in losing dear ones and being forced to undertake tasks beyond my strength (so I thought) has made me realise that I do not need outwardly to give expression to my inmost thoughts. To try to live out the Four Points of the Compass is sufficient for me.

*Peter Danmiers and George Sharples (Exeter Branch) at the opening of their 'drop in' centre for the unemployed. This experiment was launched to provide a once a week meeting place for unemployed Exeter people of all ages.*

## For your diary

### Holiday Week for Physically Handicapped

Southdown District have booked at Toc H Ifield House for their base to provide a break for 15 physically handicapped folk from 11-18 August 1984. This new Toc H Holiday Centre is on the fringe of Crawley, Sussex. It is administered from nearby Clayton House. Three volunteer helpers are needed to complete our team. The Centre has a trained staff. The total cost to guests is £50 per person. As on previous holiday weeks we rely on guests to make their own transport arrangements to and from Ifield. It will be a happy week with the Toc H family in Sussex and a varied and interesting programme. Please contact Cecil B Wakely, 44 Chatsmore Crescent, Goring by Sea, Worthing, Sussex BN12 5AA if you are interested as a volunteer or in introducing or sponsoring a guest or if you wish to come as a guest within the scope of this holiday.

### A date for your 1984 diary

There will be a National Youth Weekend between 21-23 September 1984, comprising an exciting programme of shared activity and discussion sessions.

Details to follow — but note the date now!





# We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.  
—Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

**In December 1982**  
Arthur M Mayston (Maidstone)

**In January**  
Bernard A Sharp (Medway & Sheppey District)

**In August**  
Emily M Clarke (South Sussex District)

**In October**  
Arthur B Armitage (Huddersfield District)  
Leslie M W Marshall (Barkingside)  
Thomas M Pullen (Hereford)  
Violet B Scarbro (Coningsby)  
Geoffrey L Tibbetts (Aston Manor)  
Margaret L Turner (Bideford)  
Jeremiah Waddell (Oakley)

**In November**  
Lois G Browne (West Somerset District)  
R H 'Bob' Busby (Plympton)  
Flo M Davy (South West Counties)  
Frances J Guy (late Newport (I O W))

**Ernest Everett**, a former member of Rushden Branch, died suddenly in Gwent in June last within weeks of his moving into the area. Griffithstown Branch members attended the funeral and acted as bearers. In accordance with his widow's wishes, donations were sent to Toc H in lieu of flowers and these donations amounted to almost £100.

**Ron Hampshire**, Pilot of Paignton Men's Branch, died in July, aged 75. *Joining Toc H on retiring from the Hospital Administrative Service, he quickly established himself as a leader and guide. He became the first Chairman of the South Devon District, when it was formed in 1975, and more recently was an active member of the Working Party, set up by the Regional Council to study the suggested restructuring of the South West Region. He was also the official visitor to the local members of BLISMA. . . . He has served as a lay preacher for 53 years, the longest serving preacher in the area.*

*'All who met him, both in and out of Toc H, are the richer for having known him.'*

DW

Luton Women's Branch report the death in July at the age of 99 of **Edith Florence Robinson**. 'Rob' was the rock on which Luton built its Branch and she held all Branch offices in turn, being a much valued Pilot for many years. Though cared for over several years in a home for the elderly, she retained a lively interest

in Toc H whenever her friends visited her. Luton and Stopsley Branches shared with Rob's family and many friends her funeral service *'in the loss of a dear friend but with many memories left behind'*.

**Ethel (Biddy) Carrall** (Wolds District) died in July aged 93. Biddy joined LWH in 1923 in York and remained an active Toc H member from that time. An old friend writes: *'... Just knowing Biddy was a great experience ...'* She was very known in the North East and her memorial service on Michaelmas Day was well attended.

**John F Drakes** (Lincs District) died in August at the age of 67. A long standing Branch member, John had also served ably as Area Treasurer. In the Branch, he could always be relied on to inject common sense into any discussion. An old friend writes: *'... What was certain was his sincerity and commitment and reliability ...'* He will be missed very much by a number of people with varying interests and personally I have lost a good and valued friend'.

**Frederick Morris** (Ickleton, Essex) died in August. He joined Toc H in 1929 and had been a Builder since 1980. His son writes: *'... Dad expressed a wish before he died to have included in his Service the Toc H Prayer, which brought back to me very vivid memories of a happy childhood in the presence of Toc H meetings and belonging to a boy's club founded by my father and members of Toc H. May I express my thanks for your long and happy relationship with my father over the years which I am sure made his life that much brighter.'*

**Richard Roberts CBE, DL, MA** died in August. A very old Toc H friend writes: *'The sad passing of Dick ... brings us almost to the end of an era which included Toc H Mark 4 in its heyday (now closed), The Blood Transfusion Scheme, Hospital Commentaries, and, of course, Children's Camps (which have given us the Rhyl Centre as it is now known) and 26 years of the Festival of Music Concerts. Dick served in all these things and in Toc H at all levels, as member, Chairman of Manchester Area Executive to Vice-Chairman of the Central Executive. In his quiet and unassuming way he achieved much indeed and will be remembered by many for that, but for those who had the privilege and pleasure of working closely with him*

*the loss will be considerable, equally so the determination to "continue the good work thus begun". There is no better way we can pay tribute to his memory'*.

CHC

**Les Gosden** (Weybridge Joint Branch) died in August at the age of 72 following a heart attack. *'... Les had been a member of Toc H for 50 years and he served well his church, and Mark XX, the units to which he belonged, also Surrey's District Team and Projects Team, and on the staff at HQ. He could be prickly but he had a great sense of humour and forgiveness'*.

GF

**T C (Cliff) Frodsham** (Merseyside District) died in September aged 75. Cliff was a founder member (1927) of St Helen's Branch and remained an active and enthusiastic Toc H worker until the Branch closed more than 50 years later. Despite failing health, he continued his Toc H 'jobs' to the end.

Toc H President Revd Ken Bloxham tells us of the death in October of **Prebendary Gordon Lawes** of Bodmin. He writes *'After many years service as chief of public transport in Burma, he came to South Australia - and acted as State Secretary of Toc H for some years, passing over to me when I was sent out as Area Padre. On return to England, and at the age of 52, he was ordained and served with distinction in the Cornwall Diocese, and in the work of Truro Cathedral'*.

Chard (Somerset) Branch report the death in October, at the age of 79, of **Charles Clifford Choak**. Though he resigned from membership some years ago, he had served as both Branch and District Chairman.

Denton (Searchlight Workshops) Branch (Newhaven) report the death of **William ('Wally') Monksfield**. Wally had been a Searchlight resident for 46 years and was a founder member of the Branch, though he resigned his membership a few years ago. A lively Cockney, Wally was always ready to speak his mind at Branch meetings. He had the ability for getting on well with others. The Branch Secretary writes: *'... Although Wally was ready to go, he will be sadly missed. May he rest in peace'*.

We give thanks for their lives



# Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

North Wales. Happy family hotel, children welcome. H & C all rooms. Two minutes sandy beach and shops. Easy reach North Wales beauty spots and Snowdonia National Park. Parties welcome. SAE brochure: 'The Dolphin', 4 Paradise Crescent, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6AR. Tel: 0492 622223.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Toc H Ordinand needs books on Anglican ritual, clergy function, Sacraments, Ministry — some now out of print. Will pay for anything suitable offered. Gibbs, St Michael's College, Llandaff, Cardiff.

Jaywick, Clacton, Essex. Sea wall chalet, ideal for two adults, can sleep three. Car parking available, near shops. All electric. April to October £30 pw. Apply: Miss Nicolls, 38 Kings Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

## GROUP TRAINING WEEKENDS

For some six years now, Toc H has offered a regular annual training weekend on the subject of 'Groups'. Originally at Dor Knap, these have recently been held at Cuddesdon House, each Spring. To each of these have come some 20 participants, with four leaders. There will be another such a weekend in 1984 — details below.

What does it mean? What goes on at these weekends? Group Training can sound very frightening to some, very boring to others. Yet it is fair to say that very few of those attending have found them frightening or boring — in fact the reverse. The feedback has been predominantly enthusiastic.

The starting points are two-fold.

The first is that every group that ever formed and existed went through certain stages of life — from the anxious time of first meeting, through, if all goes well, to the time where the group 'gells' and people really feel they belong. It is possible to observe the various stages, and if one is working with groups, it is most helpful to know something of what to expect, and to know a little theory about what happens in a group.

The second starting point is that individuals do tend to behave differently when thrust into a new group — we react with other group members, and sometimes behave in ways that are unusual for us, and 'out of character'.

These weekends then are, simply, an opportunity to devote some time to trying to see more clearly than usual what is happening to the group I am in, and what is happening to me in that group. It is not a heavy self analytical 'trip', nor does anyone else analyse you — it isn't about that! It is about undertaking certain tasks, games or exercises (usually light hearted and not too difficult) and then trying to work out what actually happened to the group as it tackled the tasks. The leaders help with a bit of theory and in other ways, but it is primarily an exercise in awareness — in seeing what is actually going on.

In 1984, for the first time, there will be two 'Group' weekends.

The first — at Alison House, 16 to 18 March, (cost £21) — will be on the same lines as previous years, and is called 'Life in a small group'.

The second weekend marks a new venture — it is at Cuddesdon House from 4 to 7 May (Cost £33) and is our first 'inter-group' event. It is for those who have already been to a 'group' weekend, and who want to look at relationships between groups.

For both these weekends subsidies may be available, especially for the unwaged.

More details, and application forms, from: John Mitchell, Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7BZ.